

Submitter: Jaime Keyser
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HJR201

My name is Jaime Keyser, and I am an Oregonian residing in Clatsop County. I am writing to express my firm opposition to House Joint Resolution 201 (HJR201), which proposes a significant amendment to the Oregon Constitution by introducing a state property tax for public safety funding.

The introduction of this new tax under HJR201 poses a serious financial burden on Oregon property owners, both residential and commercial. The absence of constraints from existing tax limitations, particularly those outlined in Article XI, sections 11 and 11b, could lead to unprecedented and potentially unmanageable tax rates. This not only impacts individual homeowners but also the broader business community, potentially stifling economic growth.

Moreover, the establishment of a new administrative authority to implement this tax introduces unnecessary bureaucratic complexity and administrative costs. Such an addition to the existing tax structure is likely to be inefficient and may divert funds from essential public services.

The economic implications of increased property taxes are significant. They can adversely affect the real estate market, potentially leading to decreased property values and negatively impacting rental markets. This could further exacerbate the housing affordability crisis in Oregon.

Equally concerning are the equity and fairness issues raised by HJR201. A statewide property tax may disproportionately affect certain groups or regions within the state, exacerbating existing inequalities.

As a concerned citizen, I urge you to oppose HJR201. This resolution, in its current form, does not adequately balance the needs for public safety funding with the economic realities and fairness concerns of Oregonians.

Thank you for your time and consideration.